

APPENDIX I- PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Applicant (Agency & address - including zip)		Proposed Date of Completion: December 2011	
Check one		Grant Amount Requested: \$ 2,500,000	
City		If Joint Proposal, list participating entities/ contact person: San Joaquin Council of Governments/Andrew Chesley Stanislaus Council of Governments/Vince Harris Merced County Association of Governments/ Jesse Brown Madera County Transportation Commission/Patricia Taylor Council of Fresno County Governments/Tony Boren King County Association of Governments/Terri King Tulare County Association of Governments/Ted Smalley Kern Council of Governments/Ron Brummett	
County			
MPO	X		
COG			
RTPA			
JPA			
Joint Proposal			
Lead Applicant's Name:			
Title of Proposal (summarize the deliverable to be funded by this grant) San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap Program			
Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution Name: Tony Boren Title: Executive Director Phone: (559)2334148 Email: tboren@fresnocog.org		Person with Day to Day Responsibility for Plan (if different from Authorized Representative) Name: Title: Phone: Email:	
<i>Check all of the following that are incorporated or applicable to the proposal:</i>			
Focus Area		Program Objectives	
Focus Area # 1		X	Applying for 20% EDC set aside
X Focus Area # 2		X	
Focus Area # 3		X	Improve air and water quality
Eligibility Requirements (mandatory)		X	Promote public health
X Consistent with State Planning Priorities		X	Promote equity
X Reduces GHG emissions on a permanent basis		X	Increase affordable housing
X Collaboration requirement		X	Increase infill and compact development
Priority Considerations		X	Revitalize urban and community centers
X Demonstrates collaboration & community involvement		X	Protect natural resources and agricultural lands
X Addresses climate change impacts		X	Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption
X Serves as best practices		X	Improve infrastructure systems
X Leverages additional resources		X	Promote water conservation
X Serves an economically disadvantaged community		X	Promote energy efficiency and conservation
X Serves a severely disadvantaged community		X	Strengthen the economy
I certify that the information contained in this plan application, including required attachments, is complete and accurate			
Signature: <u>Tony Boren</u>		Date: <u>8-30-10</u>	
Applicant's Authorized Representative as shown in Resolution			
Print Name and Title: Tony Boren, Executive Director, Council of Fresno County Governments, Chair, San Joaquin Valley COG Directors' Association			

Proposal Summary Statement

The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) of California is one of the most culturally diverse, fastest growing, yet economically disadvantaged regions in the nation. The recent economic downturn has left many of these communities with depleted resources to carry out projects that are essential to infrastructure, economy, and overall quality of life. The lack of resources and personnel precludes the available expertise to execute the essential tasks needed to carry out SB 375.

Already, through its regional blueprint process, the eight SJV-MPOs, in partnership with local agencies, are working toward building environmentally and economically sustainable communities guided by the regionally adopted Preferred Blueprint scenario. Through ongoing regional-local collaboration, planners' resources are currently being developed for a range of community types and sizes to assist in the efforts of general plan integration of SCS and SB 375 goals.

In concert with the SCS development program, a general plan integration program will be one of the major foci of this proposal. The General Plan is the single most important policy guide for cities and counties. It provides direction for most staff reports, planning commission recommendations, and city council or boards of supervisors' decisions. A climate action plan, in concert with the general plan, provides additional guidance for local governments to reduce community and municipal greenhouse gasses, address climate change, and promote sustainability and resource conservation and efficiency. Cities and counties as essential partners in California's efforts to implement climate change-related mandates (AB 32, SB 97, SB 375, Sustainable Communities Strategies, Regional Blueprints). Most cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley currently lack the expertise and resources to do so.

Updating a general plan or preparing a climate action plan is complex, costly and time-consuming. Valley cities and counties update their plans infrequently or defer plan preparation. When combined with environmental review—**for which are not seeking funding**—, a general plan update can cost a minimum of \$400,000 to \$600,000 and preparing a climate action plan over \$100,000. For small or medium-size cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley, the cumulative cost to update their general plans and/or prepare climate action plans amounts to over \$25,000,000. If Valley cities and counties are going to do their part to meet State objectives, they will need to update their general plans and/or prepare climate action plans, despite the current fiscal crisis. This Program that will enable small and medium-size city and county staff to gain the skills, knowledge, and tools to update their general plan and/or prepare a climate action plan in-house with a minimum of outside assistance.

A key focus of the SCS and general plan program is to work with Valley cities and counties to update their general plans and/or to prepare climate action plans to: address climate change; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; promote sustainability, public health, equity, resource conservation, and energy/water efficiency; increase infill, compact development, and housing affordability; revitalize urban and community centers, reduce automobile use, improve air and water quality; improve infrastructure systems; and strengthen local economies.

This application is in alignment with the focus area 1 applications from cities and counties around the SJV whose applications will be seeking funding to do preliminary, preparatory and supportive work. The scope of this work was arrived at through ongoing Valleywide collaboration with the cities and counties to produce a program that would best implement the Blueprint Roadmap and assist in the efforts of general plan integration of SCS and SB 375 goals.

The Greenprint Program is also a vital component to the San Joaquin Valley's Urban and Rural Roadmap Programs. While the urban and rural programs focus on the strategies, policies and planning for integrated land use and transportation planning, the Greenprint Program focuses on the openspace side of the equation. Focusing primarily on the conservation and preservation of natural openspace, habitat corridors and vital farmland, the Greenprint Program also becomes the counter balance to urban and rural community development, providing clear boundaries to growth while it defines the value and role strategic and vital openspace in the context of the comprehensive regional program.

Threshold Requirements

This proposal is guided by the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint and its 12 smart growth principles that serve as the framework for the implementation of Blueprint Roadmap Program throughout the Valley. *These Blueprint principles are also consistent with the State's Planning Priorities, Section 65041.1 of the Government Code, the SGC Planning Grant Program Objectives and the meet the threshold requirements for the proposal.*

As a result of comprehensive, collaborative and integrated planning, the aggregated plans, policies, codes and programs are to be developed, adopted, implemented and shared with all other jurisdictions and non-governmental partners in the San Joaquin Valley, the State of California and the Nation, to serve as best practices while also meeting and keeping with the collaboration and transparency requirements of the SGC program. This program will have a significant impact on the measurable implementation of a regional plan for sustainable development in California. Desirable outcomes are deliverable because the ultimate implementers of the Blueprint Roadmap Program, the cities and counties, are mutually leading and coordinating local planning, implementation, and program operations in collaboration with other key local and regional organizations and non-profit partners throughout the Valley. This program and proposal meet the Threshold requirements accordingly:

By promoting infill development and investing in existing communities

The San Joaquin Valley is projected to have the fastest growing population in the State to the year 2050. In order to accommodate this growth sustainably, infill and multimodal, transit oriented development (TOD) are vital to meeting the needs of the region while balancing the protection of resources—both natural and financial. The San Joaquin Valleys (SJV) Roadmap Program is coordinated with regional efforts and pilot projects will build on the 12 smart growth principles to reduce emissions from passenger vehicles by creating a more efficient mix and distribution of land uses to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as required by California Senate Bill 375 as part of broader efforts to reduce climate change emissions in California under Assembly Bill 32 in 2006. This project will leverage the input of more than 10,000 citizens who participated in developing the SJV Blueprint principles to create a Roadmap Program that will cover the broad issues affecting each community's equity, economy, and environment.

By protecting, preserving and enhancing environmental and agricultural lands, and natural and recreational resources; and

The region will develop of a regional greenprint plan that identifies strategically planned and managed network of natural lands, that conserve ecosystem and provides associated benefits to human populations through; integrated into community and regional growth strategies economically vital agricultural land preservation; natural resource protection; habitat and species protection; recreational lands preservation; and to create politically defensible boundaries for urban and rural development urban-rural buffers.

The multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency and cross-professional Greenprint program team includes eight SJV MPOs, the eight SJV counties, American Farmland Trust, UC Davis Information Center for the Environment, TreeTOPS Regional Urban Forest Initiative, City of Riverbank, City of Sanger, City of Kingsburg, Rails to Trails, and many others. The project will define additional elements to be included within the Greenprint strategy beyond the completed work on mapping of strategic farmland (i.e. habitat preservation and/or habitat connectivity, regional trails, rural Blueprint), identify additional stakeholders, and identify additional on-going projects that would inform the process.

The short-term products and the focus of the requested grant funds would be to modify the existing San Joaquin Valley Blueprint website to include information/products on the Greenprint, development of additional tools to be included in the Blueprint Planners' toolkit related to Greenprint activities (to include case study write-up and best practices information for local planners and other regional agencies), facilitation of Google-Groups site for project team information exchange, and facilitation of a forum to

inform potential stakeholder groups (i.e. agricultural, environmental, planners, and other regional councils) and other regional entities of the Greenprint process and its relationship to both implementation of the Blueprint Roadmap and as a catalyst for development of the conservation component of SB 375. The San Joaquin Valley will then share the evolution of the Greenprint strategy with other regional agencies, local planners, stakeholders, and other public entities to serve as a *best practices model*.

The Greenprint Program is also a vital component to the San Joaquin Valley's Urban and Rural Roadmap Programs. While the urban and rural programs focus on the strategies, policies and planning for integrated land use and transportation planning, the Greenprint Program focuses on the openspace side of the equation. Focusing primarily on the preservation of natural openspace, habitat corridors and vital farmland, the Greenprint Program also becomes the counter balance to urban and rural development, providing clear boundaries to growth and defines the value and role openspace (or greenspace) in the context of the comprehensive regional program.

These grant funds will be used to synthesize several related, yet independent efforts that are taking shape under the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap's openspace preservation and conservation efforts, including: farmland conservation, habitat and riparian corridor preservation, regional trails project, and the regional urban forest initiative.

The San Joaquin Valley Greenprint (SJVG) will inventory and analyze the agricultural, natural, recreational and other land and water resources of the region. On the basis of this analysis, it will recommend and promote comprehensive governmental and private sector strategies for securing and maximizing their benefit to people, local communities, the region and the state. In so doing, it will complement and reinforce the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint adopted by the Policy Council to promote more efficient urban growth and development.

Specifically, the SJVG will focus on six categories of land and water resources:

1. Agricultural Resources – These are devoted both to production agriculture that supplies the global market with more than \$20 billion worth of food and fiber products annually, as well as to smaller scale agricultural operations that supply fast-growing local food markets.
2. Natural and Environmental Resources – These include wetlands, vernal pools, rivers and riparian corridors, and other wildlife habitat; watersheds and aquifer recharge areas that are critical to water supply and quality; and lands that do or could provide a variety of other ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, renewable energy, nutrient recycling and air purification.
3. Parks and Recreational Lands – These include existing and potential public lands, private hunting and other recreational lands, and urban green spaces.
4. Scenic, Cultural and Historic Landscapes – These are lands that contribute to the sense of “place” that makes the San Joaquin Valley unique and gives it character.
5. Hazardous Lands – These include floodplains, areas prone to earthquakes and wildfires, etc.
6. Urban Edge Buffers – This would include areas where development is restricted in order to avoid and mitigate conflicts between urban and surrounding rural land uses, particularly production agriculture. There are examples of urban buffers in the Valley, e.g., conservation easements on farmland on the west side of the City of Madera. The intention would be to explore the potential of such buffers.

The SJVG will leverage the efforts of existing open space elements of county and city general plans, the Model Farmland Conservation Program being piloted in Fresno County, and the Safe Passages wildlife habitat connectivity project and the TreeTOPS urban forest initiative. It will take advantage of existing land use model efforts such as U-Plan and iPlaces developed during the Valley Blueprint process.

By encouraging location and resource efficient development

As suggested by the regional level Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS) the cost of infill and redevelopment in the region will be targeted to locations where the greatest cost benefit can be realized. By concentrating efforts along major activity corridors near the urban core (both urban and rural) efforts will capitalize on current infrastructure. This, coupled with demand, will maximize efficiency and build a major piece of the sustainable model envisioned by the region. It will reduce the overall cost of ownership in terms of long-term facility maintenance as well as the delivery of services. The major co-benefits of this activity based, and multimodal transit oriented focus are reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lower total cost of ownership (TCO) and maintenance, and reduced land consumption through mixed use and higher density land use patterns integrated with transportation networks in the region.

The proposal will build on planning already underway on this effort in some of the major metropolitan areas in the San Joaquin Valley and is being incorporated into general plan updates. As the Blueprint Roadmap continues to develop, outcomes will be incorporated to serve as models to be used throughout the region as part of the comprehensive vision for the Valley. Work on this endeavor is ongoing and will be an integral part in the ongoing development of the Roadmap Program.

Carefully planned, walkable and bikeable community centers are another major component of this effort, and work on this component is also well underway in the region. Strategically planning community design, ordinances and development codes in key locations, can dramatically reduce dependency on vehicle trips while encouraging a healthier lifestyle and offering a greater range of healthy lifestyle choices. These planned community centers will incorporate walkable, bikeable or transit friendly choices for retail, shopping and recreation, increase healthy lifestyles while reducing GHG.

By reducing on as permanent a basis that is feasible, greenhouse gas emissions consistent with:

Kern COG was recently awarded a grant from Southern California Edison (SCE) on behalf of Kern County, California City, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Delano, Tehachapi and several special districts operating within SCE territory in the Kern region to produce Energy Action Plans (EAP). The Kern Regional Energy Action Plans (KernREAP) will bring energy efficiency, greenhouse gas inventory, and energy analysis policies, procedures, and best practices to the attention of the participating agencies that may not hold expertise or have the time to dedicate to these topics. Each partner agency will be asked to participate in creating a process for the municipal inventory and for setting up a template for the EAP. This template would also be made available to local governments in other independently owned utility territories within Kern County.

Kern County Planning Department staff is creating a Climate Action Plan emissions inventory in coordination with the San Joaquin Valley and Kern County Air Pollution Control districts that will calculate historical greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2009 using the best available data. That inventory will then be used to estimate future emissions to 2020. The KernREAP funding will expand the inventory collection to the municipal inventories developed through the grant for use throughout the SJV.

The proposals SCS program component will identify percent of GHG reduction against base line levels from 2005, in accordance with the RTAC recommendations and SB 375 requirements.

In addition, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), a partner in the SJV Regional Blueprint and a San Joaquin Valley, Regional policy Council (SJV_RPC) member, will simultaneously and collaboratively be working towards the development of an integrated GHG inventory program to standardized measurement of GHG in Valley.

By meeting the collaboration requirements of the focus area applicable to the proposal

This proposal directly addresses the intent and meets the requirements of focus area 2 to fund MPOs to collaborate with local governments to implement SB 375 at the city, county and regional levels, within the context of the three E's of sustainable communities: healthy environment and economy and equitable access to regional resources and amenities. This proposal is built upon 4 years of ongoing Regional Blueprint Program collaboration. The cities and counties are mutually leading and coordinating local planning, implementation, and program operations in collaboration with other key local and regional organizations and non-profit partners throughout the Valley. This coalition was instrumental in developing the scope for this proposal. It is intended to be supportive of the focus area 1 proposals from the cities and counties and avoid duplication. And, while many focus area 1 application may appear to have similar scopes, they are complimentary, not duplicative.

The economically disadvantaged communities (EDC) Program has extensive collaboration requirements to ensure success. The MPOs and partners will perform the upfront investment in resource development, extensive outreach and develop the resource toolkit under this SGC proposal and support the development of resource development center (RDC) efforts. The RDC will receive referrals from the Small Communities Network (SCN) on behalf of targeted communities in the Valley. The RDC will then process SCN referrals and forward them to respective Valleywide partners, which consist of the eight Valley MPOs, Fresno State's Construction Management Program (CMP), California Water Institute (CWI), Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) and San Joaquin Valley Urban Planning and Environmental Resource Center (SUPER Center). community partners who will also contribute their resources and services are the California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH), the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI) and the Regional Policy Council (RPC). All partners will negotiate service contracts with referred communities directly. The EDC RDC will offer targeted communities assistance in areas that include, but are not limited to community and economic development, construction management, environmental resource mitigation and conservation, small business and entrepreneur development, sustainable planning, and water and waste water management. The MPO will offer additional assistance through the EDC program to meet the goals where applicable and will provide direct planning and community development assistance through in-kind and consultant-contracted services.

This is especially vital if Valley cities and counties are going to do their part to meet State objectives. Local agencies will need to update their general plans and/or prepare climate action plans, despite the current fiscal crisis. To provide an affordable alternative to consultant-prepared general plans and climate action plans, and to put city and county staff to work during these difficult times, this proposal outlines a Training Program that will enable small- and medium-size city and county staff to gain the skills, knowledge, and tools to update their general plan and/or prepare a climate action plan in-house with a minimum of outside assistance.

The development of a general plan resource program and template toolkit will provide direction and boilerplates for most staff reports, planning commission recommendations, and city council or boards of supervisors' decisions. A climate action plan, in concert with the general plan, will provide additional guidance for local governments to reduce community- and municipal greenhouse gasses, address climate change, and promote sustainability and resource conservation and efficiency. Cities and counties as essential partners in California's efforts to implement climate change-related mandates (AB 32, SB 97) and regional planning and sustainability initiatives (SB 375, Sustainable Communities Strategies, Regional Blueprints). Most cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley currently lack the expertise and resources to do so. For small- or medium-size cities and counties in the San Joaquin Valley, the cumulative cost to update their general plans and/or prepare climate action plans amounts to over \$25,000,000.

Both of these programs will be fully integrated into the MPO-SCS planning activities and the current Model Improvement Program (MIP)

Program Objectives

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap Program, and this proposal are aligned with the SGC Planning Grant program objectives. The co-benefits of comprehensive and integrated regional planning, guided by well vetted quality-of-life principles, create cross-sections that touch on every planning Objective in the SGC Planning Grant program. Building higher density, transit oriented development, with mixed land uses promotes fewer automobile trips, improves air quality through reduced emissions; and improves water quality through decreased toxic runoff into storm drains. By co-locating retail, entertainment and employment, neighborhoods are more walkable, bikeable and promote healthier citizens.

While the SCS, EDC and general plan update programs appear to be distinct project tasks in the SJV Blueprint Roadmap Program, they are functionally interconnected components, linked to the common objectives and informed by leveraged studies and programs throughout the Valley. Without exception, all twelve of the SCS Planning Grant Objectives are addressed in the proposal tasks, either ***directly through*** proposal tasks; through ongoing work ***directly related*** to the proposal that will be integrated at planned phases in the proposal workplan; or through work accomplished ***directly related*** to the proposals primary program objectives that will be integrated into the workplan at planned phases. The primary objectives are:

To Improve Air and Water Quality by planning for transportation networks with integrated land uses to reduce dependence on automobile travel by increasing density, promoting mixed use development, colocating residential, retail, commercial, employment and education to within walking or biking distance and by promoting transit oriented development (TOD). Because the San Joaquin Valley is a designated non-attainment area to eight San Joaquin Valley MPOs must already address and meet the requirements air-quality conformity during each RTP update cycle. Air quality is modeled and measured against the constrained RTP to ensure that air quality standards are met. In addition, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), a partner in the Blueprint Roadmap and a Regional Policy Council (RPC) member, will be working towards the development of an integrated GHG inventory program to standardized measurement of GHG in Valley.

By protecting natural waterways and aquifers from the effects of urban encroachment, the green print program will deliver recommendations on strategies for water conservation, water reclamation, groundwater recharge, and water quality management strategies and policies. Water quality testing and management plans are already standard practice in the urban areas, however, this proposal will address water quality and conservation in rural cities and communities as well as in the openspace. Throughout the SJV Blueprint Process, the MPOs, the Universities and the cities have worked closely with the IRWMPs to ensure that water quality and management policies become integrated with Blueprint Roadmap toolkit.

in addition, one of the largest concentrations of groundwater water banking operations in the world, the Kern COG is taking the lead for the region in the process of developing multiple Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) that will cover the entire region. These plans will provide an accurate and comprehensive picture infrastructure per population served. The Kern County Water Agency took the lead to create the Tulare Lake Basin portion of Kern County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Kern IRWMP). The Kern IRWMP is a collaboration of water suppliers; community and government representatives; environmental groups; businesses; and a variety of other interested parties. The Kern IRWMP seeks to preserve the economic and environmental health of Kern County

communities through comprehensive and efficient management of its water resources. This program will serve as a pilot for inclusion in the Blueprint Roadmap toolkit for the entire SJV.

Promote Public Health through improved air and water quality; land use development that reduces vehicle dependence and promotes walking and biking into daily activity trips such as retail, employment and education; promotion of practices and policies that promote locally grown food to be consumed locally, rather than packaged, shipped out, processed and re-imported in the form of fast-food.

Promote Equity and Increase Housing Affordability by developing inclusionary housing policies for income mix. Working with the California Partnership, the Compact of Cities, the Small Communities Network, the Housing Authority and the RDC through the Roadmap EDC program. The program will evaluate impediments to Fair Housing and Housing Elements, identify ways to increase supply of affordable housing, and audit local plans for Livability Principles consistency. The program will also identify available funding sources to encourage affordable housing; compile data elements from the cities and regional planning organizations regarding trends in housing efficiency and housing costs. Work has already begun with public and private sector partners in the development community to provide best practices strategies and identify available funding sources to encourage affordable housing. MPO collaboration with the Housing Authority has begun to help identify and disseminate information regarding available funding for affordable housing and to promote policies that offer a range of mixed use choices for all family types and income ranges.

In addition, reducing urban/rural sprawl and determining ways to formulate new economic development to be within minimum commuting distance of high unemployment areas are currently being explored through the regional PTIS. Reduced cost and greater return on economic investment through lower total-cost –of-ownership associated with higher density, infill and mixed use development; reduced fuel and energy consumption promotes major increases in housing affordability.

To measure the outcomes of strategy and policy measures, the Blueprint Roadmap effort is working with other regional partners such as U.C. Davis and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to develop a costing model to measure the cost/benefit of development patterns on housing value, cost, affordability and return on public investment.

This proposal seeks to develop, support and integrate disadvantaged community planning into the Blueprint Roadmap process and RDC. The establishment the Blueprint Roadmap toolkit within the Rural Development Center (RDC) will connect predominately impoverished small and unincorporated rural communities to a myriad of technical assistance and project management services to ensure that these communities' needs are met efficiently, effectively and affordably. The RDC will receive referrals from the Small Communities Network (SCN) on behalf of targeted communities in the SJV. The Blueprint Roadmap program will perform the extensive outreach and develop the resource toolkit to support the RDC efforts. The RDC will then process SCN referrals and forward them to respective Valleywide partners, which consist of the eight Valley MPOs, Fresno State's Construction Management Program (CMP), California Water Institute (CWI), Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) and San Joaquin Valley Urban Planning and Environmental Resource Center (SUPER Center). Community partners who will also contribute their resources and services are the California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH), the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI) and the Regional Policy Council (RPC). All partners will negotiate service contracts with referred communities directly. The RDC will offer targeted communities assistance in areas that include, but are not limited to community and economic development, construction management, environmental resource mitigation and conservation, small business and entrepreneur development, sustainable planning, and water and waste water management.

The program will serve forty-six cities within the SJV with populations under 50,000. This program will also serve the unincorporated communities of the eight counties, whose population totals

1,090,468. The eight SJV counties consist of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare.

Promote Infill and Compact Development and Revitalize Urban and Community Centers by concentrating development in the downtown and urban core and along established, regional activity corridors and community centers. The City of Fresno along with Fresno COG and the regional PTIS, are studying and planning for transportation networks along established corridors that will focus on rapid transit systems. The urban and community centers portion of the program is focused on circulation transit, pedestrian friendly design and multimodal hubs. Recommendations are expected soon and this program will be a pilot to the rest of the Valley through the Blueprint Roadmap's Urban Program and the Compact of Cities. Recommendations for downtown, urban core infill and redevelopment are major deliverables from the Urban Program. Outcomes will be measured, modeled and quantified for reduced vehicle miles traveled, air quality improvement, post GHG inventory assessment, land consumption reduction and cost/benefit of public funding. Major focus will be on mixed use and higher densities, activity corridor intensification with transit and rapid transit priority access and community center intensification.

Urban development containment policies are also being explored through urban boundary, non-expansion practices and policies. While the urban and rural communities programs focus on the strategies, policies and planning for integrated land use and transportation planning, the Greenprint Program will focus on the preservation of natural openspace, habitat corridors and vital farmland, and becomes the counter balance to urban and rural development, providing clear boundaries to growth.

Protect Natural Resources and Agricultural Lands through the development of a Regional Greenprint Program to identify natural resource and openspace; identify and map overlays between agricultural, natural habitat; recreational openspace and vital resources—watersheds, water reclamation, carbon sequestration and mitigation belts—and establish a preservation and protection plan; explore policy measures that work in conjunction with urban boundary programs to reduce strategic land consumption;

The region will develop of a regional greenprint plan that identifies strategically planned and managed network of natural lands, that conserve ecosystem and provides associated benefits to human populations through; integrated into community and regional growth strategies economically vital agricultural land preservation; natural resource protection; habitat and species protection; recreational lands preservation; and to create politically defensible boundaries for urban and rural development urban-rural buffers.

The multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency and cross-professional Greenprint program team includes eight SJV MPOs, the eight counties, American Farmland Trust, UC Davis Information Center for the Environment, TreeTOPS Regional Urban Forest Initiative, City of Riverbank, City of Sanger, City of Kingsburg, Rails to Trails, and many others. The project will define additional elements to be included within the Greenprint strategy beyond the completed work on mapping of strategic farmland (i.e. habitat preservation and/or habitat connectivity, regional trails, rural Blueprint), identify additional stakeholders, and identify additional on-going projects that would inform the process.

The short-term products and the focus of the requested grant funds would be to modify the existing San Joaquin Valley Blueprint website to include information/products on the Greenprint, development of additional tools to be included in the Blueprint Planners' toolkit related to Greenprint activities (to include case study write-up and best practices information for local planners and other regional agencies), facilitation of Google-Groups site for project team information exchange, and facilitation of a forum to inform potential stakeholder groups (i.e. agricultural, environmental, planners, and other regional councils) and other regional entities of the Greenprint process and its relationship to both implementation of the Blueprint and as a catalyst for development of the conservation component of SB 375. The San

Joaquin Valley will then share the evolution of the Greenprint strategy with other regional agencies, local planners, stakeholders, and other public entities to serve as a best practices model.

The Greenprint Program is intended to be a vital component to the San Joaquin Valley's Urban and Rural Roadmap Programs. While the urban and rural programs focus on the strategies, policies and planning for integrated land use and transportation planning, the Greenprint Program focuses on the openspace side of the equation. Focusing primarily on the preservation of natural openspace, habitat corridors and vital farmland, the Greenprint Program also becomes the counter balance to urban and rural development, providing clear boundaries to growth and defines the value and role openspace (or greenspace) in the context of the comprehensive regional program.

These grant funds will be used to synthesize several related, yet independent efforts that are taking shape under the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap's openspace preservation and conservation efforts, including: farmland conservation, habitat and riparian corridor preservation, regional trails project, and the regional urban forest initiative.

The San Joaquin Valley Greenprint (SJVG) will inventory and analyze the agricultural, natural, recreational and other land and water resources of the region. On the basis of this analysis, it will recommend and promote comprehensive governmental and private sector strategies for securing and maximizing their benefit to people, local communities, the region and the state. In so doing, it will complement and reinforce the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint adopted by the Policy Council to promote more efficient urban growth and development.

The SJVG will leverage the efforts of existing open space elements of county and city general plans, the Model Farmland Conservation Program being piloted in Fresno County, and the Safe Passages wildlife habitat connectivity project and the TreeTOPS urban forest initiative. It will take advantage of existing land use model efforts such as U-Plan and iPlaces developed during the Valley Blueprint process.

Improve Infrastructure Systems and Reduce Automobile Usage and Fuel Consumption is absolutely fundamental to the Blueprint Roadmap program. The cost of service and infrastructure delivery is no longer sustainable—environmentally or economically. Even through fee programs measures that require developers to pay for the cost of new infrastructure, the cost of ownership to the public to maintain, repair and upgrade regional infrastructure is nearly infeasible.

The cost of infill and redevelopment must be targeted to locations where the greatest cost benefit can be realized. By concentrating efforts along major activity corridors near the urban core (both urban and rural) efforts will capitalize on current infrastructure, coupled with demand, will maximize efficiency and build a major piece of the sustainable model envisioned by the region. It will reduce the overall cost of ownership in terms of long-term facility maintenance as well as the delivery of services. This activity based, and multimodal transit oriented focus will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting mixed use and higher density land use patterns integrated with transportation networks in the region and by reducing dependence on automobile trips in daily.

The model for the region is thePTIS. It is one of the most comprehensive regional planning studies in the Valley and will serve as a template for integration the Urban Program of the Blueprint Roadmap toolkit for use throughout the Valley and the rest of the State. The purpose of the effort is to evaluate mobility needs and opportunities, and identify strategies for public transit and transit supportive infrastructure development that will result in wider acceptance of alternative travel modes such as public transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel as mobility options.

The PTIS has already evaluated existing and planned land uses, mapped residential and employment densities, and identified primary travel corridors for communities outside of the urban area. It has also reviewed existing land use policies and developed a set of transit supportive recommendations.

The alternative scenarios will include among other ideas mixed land uses; compact building design; walkable development with a variety of transportation options, and an evaluation of population distribution and land use modifications. Integration into the Blueprint Roadmap toolkit and RDC will be a major deliverable of the program.

Promote Water Conservation through higher density development, water demand reduction, reuse and reclamation, and policy measures such as metering as incentive based reductions and policy based regulations such as watering schedules to reduce consumption. Water availability will continue to be a major issue for the SJV in the foreseeable future. Through higher density development and reduced urban sprawl, promote water conservation through more efficient development patterns water allocation can be distributed more efficiently. Both the Urban and Greenprint programs are addressing water demand reduction, reuse reclamation and groundwater recharge for conservation and to maximize availability. Continue to push for policy measures such as metering as incentive based reductions and policy based regulations such as watering schedules to reduce consumption; use of runoff recapture to water landscapes are currently being piloted and waste-water treatment as also being studied. Identifying ground water recharge sites and measures as well as agricultural demand management policies.

Promote Energy Efficiency and Conservation

The City of Fresno is piloting an energy auditing project to serve as a best practices tool for the cities in San Joaquin Valley. This tool measures the energy efficiency of different infrastructure and creates a report from a software script. This report identifies not only the areas of “leakage” but possible fixes.

In addition, energy efficiency through land use development policy, natural lighting policies, green energy power production, and urban streetlight reduce-use measures, these energy efficiency and conservation strategies will be incorporated into the Blueprint roadmap.

Strengthen the Economy

As stated, the present patterns of development are unsustainable both environmentally and economically. By reducing the cost of infrastructure development and maintenance and the delivery of service, the cost saving to the public is enormous. By early modeling estimates, savings of tens of billions of dollars are possible by 2050 in the San Joaquin Valley. Further, by reducing dependence on automobile trips through more efficient land use and transportation patterns, the accompanying cost of mobility and fuel consumption decreases dramatically. By reducing sprawl development and providing a range of affordable housing options that stabilize property value and strengthen the economy. Traditional sprawl development has worked toward “hollowing out” the urban core and destabilizing the value of property in those areas. In urban areas, strong downtown economic growth plans plus neighborhood commercial centers and establishment of specific policies to promote and encourage local business centers will be identified, and policies that encourage creation of Economic Development Strategies in all cities to coordinate effort and reduce inefficiencies will be recommended. Work with EDC’s and partner groups to focus on Valley target industry clusters with attention on economic development implementation policies that encourage a full range of economic development options including: innovation and entrepreneurship, business retention and expansion, attraction, tourism and business counseling such as collaborating with the Lyle Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Institute for Family Business, and the University Business Center at the California State Universities in the Valley.

Priority Considerations

The San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Roadmap serves as the umbrella and the guiding program for sustainable growth in the region. As the San Joaquin Valley moves into implementation, focused work programs have begun to take shape.

In the urban, rural community and SCS programs, major collaborative work of the Blueprint Roadmap continues. Under the Compact of Cities the urban program will be carried forward focused on urban planning work that will bring the Blueprint Roadmap program into the general plans of the major metropolitan areas in the San Joaquin Valley. This compact is comprised of the 16 major urban cities in the valley, the eight MPOs, California State University, Fresno, the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, the Regional Policy Council, the Small Communities Network and the American Farmland Trust. A comprehensive work plan was put together as a collaboration between these major task force agencies. Work tasks were divided by areas of specialization. The California Partnership and the MPOs are working collaboratively to put together toward the creation of a regional resource development center, the RDC and the creation of the resource toolkit.

Representatives from each of the following groups—local governments, state entities, COGs, MPOs, transit agencies, health agencies, air districts, local businesses, landowners, general public, environmental groups, low income households and/ or groups that represent them will be members of the technical advisory committees (TAC)s of the major proposal workgroups and **will be engaged in the development and/ or implementation of the full proposal.**

In the Greenprint program a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency and cross-professional team includes eight SJV MPOs, the eight counties, American Farmland Trust, UC Davis Information Center for the Environment, TreeTOPS Regional Urban Forest Initiative, City of Riverbank, City of Sanger, City of Kingsburg, Rails to Trails, and many others. The project will define additional elements to be included within the Greenprint strategy beyond the completed work on mapping of strategic farmland (i.e. habitat preservation and/or habitat connectivity, regional trails, rural Blueprint), identify additional stakeholders, and identify additional on-going projects that would inform the process.

This representation does not need to be reinvented as it is already the basis upon which the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint was built and continues to engage in the implementation phase. Several groupings exist beneath the RPC: the Valleywide Professional Planners Workgroup. This group engages at the local agency level to vet issues that relate to professional practitioners. The Transportation Workgroup as well as the land use, housing and agriculture (LUHA) workgroup engage representative from each county to discuss, research and report out the Regional Policy County (RPC) the Partnership on technical issues related to the work program. The RPC is comprised to two elected officials from each of the eight county MPO boards and the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District SJVAPCD). This body helps to direct and steer the process at the elected level after proper vetting at the local and public levels. The Partnership is a body of appointed officials, ex-officio, business and community members and technical experts, housed at California State University, Fresno, to provide community support, guidance and resources to the efforts of sustainable and regional planning. A series of public and community workshops will also be held in locations throughout the SJV throughout the entire workplan lifecycle.

The community will be engaged at every step along the way, just as has been done throughout the entire SJV Regional Blueprint process. As stated, community workshops shall be conducted throughout the region. As the SCS development commences the MPOs shall conduct at least two informational meeting in each county for elected officials, including members of the board of supervisors and city councils. Drafts of the SCS (or APS is any), shall be presented to solicit and consider their input and recommendations.

Grant funds will also be used to develop and adopt an SCS/APS public outreach plan that encourages the active participation of a broad range of stakeholders groups in the planning process. It shall be developed to be consistent with MPOs federal Public Participation Plan, and reach out to, at minimum, the following groups among others: affordable housing advocates, transportation groups and advocates, neighborhood and community groups, the environmental community, home builders and associations, land owners, home owners associations, broad-based businesses and commercial property interests. Prior to adoption of the public participation process, the MPOs shall submit to the state, methodologies it intends to use to estimate GHG emission from its SCS.

Already, through its regional blueprint process, the MPOs, in partnership with its local agencies, are working toward this end. Through ongoing regional-local collaboration, planners' resources are currently being developed for a range of community types and sizes to assist in the efforts of General Plan integration. This includes the development of a General Plan Toolkit flexible enough in nature to be adaptable in different jurisdictions, yet robust enough to be useful in local blueprint integration. Supportive efforts also include the ongoing development of a regional Model Improvement Program (MIP) to collect vital data and develop the tools necessary to effectively measure sustainable development alternatives. All tools developed will be accessible to practitioners and the public alike through the State Clearinghouse, the resource center and toolkit, and upon request. Moreover, the Greenprint program, whose purpose is to identify and protect vital natural resources and agricultural lands is built on existing research and best practice and is intended to further that end. It will serve as a guide for integrating resource protection into the sustainable development process.

By reducing duplication, and maximizing economies of scale, this type of collaboration and consolidation of effort is far more useful in stretching valuable resources throughout the region than working in silos. It produces more with less and has far greater efficacy in meeting the regionally adopted, blueprint preferred growth scenario; the vehicle to the SCS. In these times when every dollar must be stretched to its maximum, we must avoid duplication of effort. The focus of the remainder of the Proposition 84 program funds must remain on building the bridge between the regionally adopted blueprints and local implementation of SCS and SB375.

The primary vehicle for promoting and sharing tools will be through strict adherence to the MPOs public participation plan and through the use of media. The Roadmap Toolkit and the Regional Development Center (RDC) the primary vehicles through which information and tools will be shared and developed. This RDC and toolkit should serve as a model for best practices in collaborative development and information sharing throughout the state.

This proposal seeks to develop, support and integrate disadvantaged community planning into the Blueprint Roadmap process and RDC. Early in the grant proposal process, a leadership team from the Blueprint Project managers group engaged the disadvantaged communities members, activists and non-governmental organizations (NGO)s primarily through the small communities network (SCN) and the HUD sustainable communities initiative workgroup. The groups represented included small cities, unincorporated communities, the San Joaquin Valley Latino Environmental Advancement & Policy Project (SJV-LEAP), the Fresno County Housing Authority and many others to share information and engage in planning for disadvantaged and small communities. Several workshops were held in small communities in which Blueprint Project Managers gave presentations on disadvantaged community planning opportunities and gathered input from community stakeholders.

This proposal seeks to develop, support and integrate disadvantaged community planning into the Blueprint Roadmap process and RDC. The establishment the Blueprint Roadmap toolkit within the Rural

Development Center (RDC) will connect predominately impoverished small and unincorporated rural communities to a myriad of technical assistance and project management services to ensure that these communities' needs are met efficiently, effectively and affordably. The Rural Development Center (RDC), will receive referrals from the Small Communities Network (SCN) on behalf of targeted communities in the San Joaquin Valley (SJV). The Roadmap program will perform the extensive outreach and develop the resource toolkit to support the RDC efforts. The RDC will then process SCN referrals and forward them to respective Valleywide partners, which consist of the eight Valley MPOs, Fresno State's Construction Management Program (CMP), California Water Institute (CWI), Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) and San Joaquin Valley Urban Planning and Environmental Resource Center (SUPER Center). community partners who will also contribute their resources and services are the California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH), the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI) and the Regional Policy Council (RPC). All partners will negotiate service contracts with referred communities directly. The RDC will offer targeted communities assistance in areas that include, but are not limited to community and economic development, construction management, environmental resource mitigation and conservation, small business and entrepreneur development, sustainable planning, and water and waste water management.

The program will serve forty-six cities within the SJV with populations under 50,000. This program will also serve the unincorporated communities of the eight counties, whose population totals 1,090,468. The eight SJV counties consist of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare.

It is envisioned that the establishment of the RDC will have a positive impact on the small and unincorporated rural communities it aims to serve. The recent economic downturn has left many of these communities with depleted resources to carry out projects that are essential to infrastructure, economy, and overall quality of life. As it is often the case, the lack of resources and personnel precludes the available expertise to execute the essential tasks. Therein lies the significance of the RDC: to provide the necessary expertise and support to the small and unincorporated rural communities in SJV.

Organizational Capacity

The Fresno COG has vast experience administering proposals and programs of this type. Fresno Cog is the project manager and fiscal agent for the San Joaquin Valley Regional Blueprint and has lead many other Valleywide efforts. The capacity to manage this proposal is fully within the organization capacity of this agency.

All eight MPOs in the San Joaquin Valley will be working collaboratively on the development of the proposal through the established Regional Blueprint Planning Process Framework, the COG Directors Association, and the SJV-RPC.

In addition, all 62 cities, eight counties and agencies stated within the collaborative requirements section of this proposal will be involved in the development of this proposal.

The timelines for achieving RTP-SCS integration will be the timeline used to carry out the program. Strict adherence to timelines and many years of successful and timely program delivery will continue through this proposal.

Much of the work has been carefully budgeted and large components will be carried out through firmly negotiated consultant contracts. Milestones and stand-alone section provide clean breakaway deliverables in the program to ensure a fall-back position if necessary.

The implementation of the proposal has been detailed through the proposal sections and a scope is attached with a deliverable timeline and milestones chart.